

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8856

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

USDOCOSOUTH

SHAPEUSNR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11369

USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

SHAPEUSNR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: DC LEADER'S VIEWS ON CURRENT POLITICAL ISSUES

1. IN A LONG AND INTERESTING CONVERSATION, USUALLY WELL-INFORMED SENIOR DC PARLIAMENTARIAN (WHO IS NOT PART OF THE CURRENT ESTABLISHMENT) MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

2. FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT: IT IS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THAT ANDREOTTI WILL SUCCEED IN PUTTING A GOVERNMENT TOGETHER. IF HE DOES IT WILL LAST ONLY FOUR TO FIVE MONTHS. THIS WOULD HOWEVER HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF GIVING BOTH THE DC AND THE PSI TIME TO SORT OUT THEIR INTERNAL PROBLEMS. WITH REGARD TO ANDREOTTI'S EFFORT, PSI CANNOT BE COMPLETELY EXCLUDED, I.E.,

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THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE MAJORITY OR SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT FROM OUTSIDE.

ANDREOTTI WILL CERTAINLY NOT ATTEMPT TO FORM A GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD INCLUDE THE PCI IN THE CABINET OR IN THE GOVERNING MAJORITY. ANY AGREEMENT (PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD) WITH THE PCI WOULD BE LIMITED TO ECONOMIC MEASURES AND WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE GLOBAL. FINALLY, HE THOUGHT THAT ANDREOTTI'S CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION PROGRESS WOULD TAKE AT LEAST TWO WEEKS.

3. IF ANDREOTTI FAILS: THIS PARLIAMENTARIAN BELIEVES THAT IF ANDREOTTI FAILS THE DC WILL PROBABLY NOT GET ANOTHER CHANCE. THERE WILL, IN THAT EVENT, LIKELY DEVELOP A STRONG MOVE TO FORM A MINORITY LAY GOVERNMENT UNDER LA MALFA'S LEADERSHIP AND WITH EXTERNAL PCI SUPPORT. SINCE SUCH A GOVERNMENT COULD ONLY EXIST ON PCI SUFFERANCE, IT IS POSSIBLE, HE TOUGHT, THAT THE VERY IDEA WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY SHOCKING TO PUSH THE OTHER PARITES AND THE COUNTRY BACK TOWARD THE DC. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE ADMITS THAT GIVEN THE POPULAR IMPRESSION THAT THE DC NEEDS REFORM AND RENEWAL (AND, IDEALLY, TIME IN OPPOSITION TO ACCOMPLISH IT), A MINORITY LAY GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE FOUND ATTRACTIVE BY MANY. IT WOULD PROVIDE AN INTERIM SOLUTION WITHOUT THE PCI IN THE GOVERNMENT, AND WOULD GIVE TIME TO THE DC IN OPPOSITION TO CLEAN UP AND REORDER ITS HOUSE.

4. DC INTERNAL AFFAIRS: THIS PARLIAMENTARIAN IS OBVIOUSLY ALMOST COMPLETELY PRE-OCCUPIED WITH DC INTERNAL AFFAIRS (HE IS A CHAMPION OF RENEWAL). HE SAID THAT THE OLD PARTY FACTIONS ARE BREAKING DOWN AND THAT THE RECENT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION SHIFTED THE BALANCE TO THE RIGHT WITHIN THE DC PARLIAMENTARY GROUP. HE SAID THAT AN EFFORT WAS AFOOT TO TRY TO PUT TOGETHER AT THE CENTER OF THE PARTY A LARGE GROUP WHICH IS UNITED BY ITS COMMITMENT TO REFORM AND RENEWAL OF THE PARTY. THE NAMES MENTIONED CAME FROM BOTH THE LEFT AND CENTER OF THE PARTY AND, WHILE ALL ARE IDENTIFIED WITH RENEWAL, THEY CERTAINLY DO NOT SHARE THE SAME POLITICAL VIEWS, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO THE PCI. OUR INTERLOCUTOR ALSO SAID THAT ZACCAGNINI HAS BEEN PER-  
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FORMING RATHER BADLY SINCE THE ELECTION AND IS APPARENTLY NOT IN GOOD HEALTH. FOR THESE REASONS HE SAID ZACCAGNINI MAY BE ENCOURAGED TO ABANDON ANY ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY. SHOULD THIS OCCUR, ZACCAGNINI WOULD PROBABLY BE REPLACED BY MORO. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE NEWLY ELECTED PARLIAMENTARIANS ARE VERY UNHAPPY BECAUSE THEY ARE BEING IGNORED BY THE PARTY LEADERSHIP, BUT HE THOUGHT THAT THEY WOULD IN SOME WAY MAKE THEIR WEIGHT FELT IN THE ELECTION OF THE NEW DIRECTORATE. HE COMMENTED HOWEVER THAT,

DESPITE THEIR UNHAPPINESS, THERE IS NO SIGN OF REBEL-  
LION. ON THE CONTRARY, THERE IS A RATHER DISCOURAGING  
PATTERN OF DEFERENCE AND RESPECT FOR THE PARTY'S OLD  
GUARD LEADERS.

5. MILLE: SEVENTY OF THE 100 CANDIDATES SUPPORTED  
BY THIS CITIZEN'S GROUP WERE ELECTED. SOURCE CITED IN  
THIS TELEGRAM SAID THAT, WHILE MILLE IS NOT STRONG,  
IT IS A VERY HEALTHY AND USEFUL IDEA. HE IS TRYING TO  
ENCOURAGE IT TO STAY ACTIVE IN THE POST-ELECTORAL  
PERIOD, ESPECIALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENCOURAGING THE  
CANDIDATES IT SUPPORTED TO WORK FOR PARTY RENEWAL AND  
GOOD GOVERNMENT, AND AGAINST THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE.  
WE HAVE HEARD SIMILAR COMMENT FROM HIGH-RANKING VATICAN  
SOURCES.BEAUDRY

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